



# East Central Idaho News

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON & TETON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased three-tenths of a percentage point from May, but the June rate at 2.2 percent was still nine-tenths of a point below the same time last year in the Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area as seen in East Central Idaho Table 1. The end of school added to the number of unemployed as the labor force decreased slightly. Dry, hot weather has helped with construction and agriculture jobs while local government increased payrolls to meet the demands of summer. City parks and pools are being widely used. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the area, posted an unemployment rate of 2.1 percent, up half a point from the previous month and down 1.2 percentage points from the same time last year.

## HOT JOBS INFORMATION EASY TO ACCESS

The happening jobs in east central Idaho and other regions of the state are only a few clicks away on the computer. New Hot Jobs information can be found at [lmi.idaho.gov/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=203](http://lmi.idaho.gov/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=203) by scrolling down to the Hot Jobs link to find the most current information on job trends through 2014. Hot Jobs are those that ranked high in three categories: number of jobs in the economy, those growing the fastest and those with the highest pay. The educational level needed for these jobs is also listed. While engineering and environmental jobs are found throughout the list because of the presence of the Idaho National Laboratory in the area, computer and health-related jobs are also prevalent. General maintenance and repair workers and accountants and auditors were the only jobs listed in the top 10 that did not completely fit the pattern. Maintenance and repair jobs were the only ones that did not require at least an

East Central Idaho Table 1: Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	Jun 2007*	May 2007	Jun 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	58,250	58,610	57,480	-0.6	1.3
Unemployment	1,260	1,090	1,810	15.6	-30.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.2%	1.9%	3.1%		
Total Employment	57,000	57,520	55,680	-0.9	2.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	59,300	58,470	58,260	1.4	1.8
Unemployment	1,060	780	1,570	35.9	-32.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.8%	1.3%	2.7%		
Total Employment	58,240	57,690	56,690	1.0	2.7
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	52,770	51,950	51,580	1.6	2.3
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	8,470	8,150	8,250	3.9	2.7
Natural Resources & Mining	20	10	10	100.0	100.0
Construction	5,030	4,730	4,880	6.3	3.1
Manufacturing	3,420	3,410	3,360	0.3	1.8
Food Manufacturing	1,060	1,040	980	1.9	8.2
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	310	310	250	0.2	24.0
Machinery Manufacturing	150	150	170	0.0	-11.8
Other Manufacturing	1,900	1,910	1,960	-0.5	-3.1
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	44,300	43,800	43,330	1.1	2.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,820	13,700	13,520	0.9	2.2
Wholesale Trade	3,980	3,990	4,050	-0.3	-1.7
Retail Trade	7,950	7,880	7,640	0.9	4.1
Utilities	60	60	60	0.0	0.0
Transportation	1,830	1,770	1,770	3.4	3.4
Information	1,240	1,240	1,260	0.0	-1.6
Financial Activities	2,310	2,310	2,170	0.0	6.5
Professional & Business Services	5,910	5,800	5,620	1.9	5.2
Educational & Health Services	7,230	7,190	7,000	0.6	3.3
Leisure & Hospitality	4,550	4,420	4,710	2.9	-3.4
Other Services	1,920	1,920	2,010	0.0	-4.5
Government Education	3,490	3,610	3,500	-3.3	-0.3
Government Administration	3,830	3,610	3,540	6.1	8.2

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

associates degree and had a median wage as low as \$16.35 an hour. The other nine in the top 10 pay an average of \$19.63 to \$40.41 an hour. Hot Jobs that require long-term on-the-job training or related work experience that average \$22 an hour or higher include carpenters, plumbers, pipefitters, steamfitters, cost estimators and electricians. Hot Jobs requiring short-term on-the-job training with a median wage over \$10 an hour include bill and account collectors, electrical and electronic equipment assemblers, general office clerks, production work helpers and teacher assistants. With moderate on-

the-job training, workers can get over \$16 an hour as excavation/loading machine operators and wholesale and manufacturing sales representatives along with maintenance and repair workers. Of course, more education and training usually increases the amount of pay workers can expect. Knowing demand and trends helps employers in their business decisions and workers determine career paths.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Taylor Crossing developers are razing a 120-year-old building to make room for a 13-story hotel-condominium building in the development along the Snake River. The building was most recently known as the Army Surplus Warehouse and was built in the late 1880s as a wagon and machine company. Marriott Inn will occupy the first six floors and condos will take up the top seven of the new building being constructed behind Smitty's Restaurant. The new site will add 800 living units to downtown and construction has already begun.
- The Eagle Rock Art Museum along the Snake River changed its name to the Art Museum of Eastern Idaho to distinguish itself from the Eagle Rock Art Guild, which founded the museum but now operates on its own. A new logo is being created by artists Richard Bird and Roy Reynolds and will be unveiled in early fall. New exhibits are being developed and the permanent collection is being expanded.
- Leatherby's Family Creamery opened its first franchise in Idaho in Ammon last month. While ice cream is the mainstay of the creamery, soups, salads, sandwiches and hamburgers are also offered.
- Pachangas Mexican Restaurant opened in Idaho Falls. It serves basic Mexican food and drinks and will be providing music. Owner Antonio Meza has 13 years experience in the restaurant industry.
- A groundbreaking was held for the equal access playground at Tautphaus Park last month. The facility will be ready for rompers by Labor Day. Volunteers will be piecing the equipment together on the 10,000-plus square foot space. A sound garden will allow children to make music. A glider will allow children with wheel chairs to participate. Harry the Hippo will sport different textures, and there will be a huge goldfish. The flooring will be a special playground surface made from recycled tires and will be accessible by both walkers and wheel chair users. Parent-to Parent, organized by local resident

Lisa Hamilton after visiting the equal-access playground in Meridian, raised the money to make the facility possible. Grants and new donations are still needed to complete the playground with a rock-climbing feature being added next year.

### TETON COUNTY

- River Rim Ranch is a new housing and golf course development being built near Teton. The mid-July groundbreaking ceremony featured bulldozers – one with a golden bucket – instead of shovels. This is the biggest subdivision in Teton County, consisting of 5,300 acres along the northern rim of Teton Valley. Professional golfer Greg Norman designed the 18-hole golf course and operated the golden-bucket bulldozer. The golf course is to be complete by 2010, and retail shops, an equestrian facility, tennis courts, a spa, chalets, cabins, houses and estates will fill the village setting. All 74 Phase 1 lots on 1,500 acres have already been sold, and work has begun on several new homes. Three additional phases will complete the project, which has no projected date for completion. The completed subdivision will include a 375-acre farm, trails and ponds.
- Driggs and Victor are in the grip of changes and new demands brought on by growth. It has left the county struggling to maintain and create new infrastructure, provide for workers and cope with traffic – not just from tourists but from heavy equipment and trucks needed for the 81 subdivisions and other construction projects that are under way. As with all projects, residents are having to sacrifice in order to make it through the growing pains and will eventually get to enjoy the community that is now evolving.

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